



Security Council

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Letter dated 6 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the establishment of the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt, issued on 28 January 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Richard Ryan
Permanent Representative of Ireland
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 6 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the establishment of the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt issued on 28 January 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union wishes to welcome the nomination by the Shura Council of the Parliament of the Arab Republic of Egypt of the members of the National Council for Human Rights and the appointment of the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros Ghali, to the Chairmanship of the National Council, thus paving the way for the actual implementation of the law deciding to establish such an institution.

The European Union also takes this opportunity to congratulate Boutros Boutros Ghali on his appointment to this important National Council for Human Rights and to wish him every success in his new office.

The Union welcomes the formation of the Council as a concrete demonstration by Egypt of its willingness to promote and protect human rights and is convinced that the independence and the high qualification of its members will contribute to the credibility of Egypt's human rights policy.

The European Union and Egypt have embarked on a comprehensive dialogue, set out in the soon to be ratified Association Agreement, on all issues that are important to both parties. In the spirit of that dialogue the European Union wishes to indicate its readiness to cooperate fully with Boutros Boutros Ghali and his colleagues and to assist, in the most appropriate and effective manner, in promoting the important aims and objectives entrusted to them by the Parliament of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.